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**RACHEL
AS THE
PHOENIX
FOR THE
LAST
TIME!**

DIRECT EDITION

07521



596004057

KWL
CANDLER

BY ALL
ACCOUNTS...

...IT WAS THE
HAPPIEST
DAY OF
HER LIFE.

UNFORTUNATELY--

--FOR ALL
INTENTS AND
PURPOSES--

-- IT WAS
ALSO HER
LAST.

Cello

RE GOING

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[illegible]

DOODS-
SORRY,
GANG!

WHAT WITH MY
MOM AND DAD
FINALLY TYING
THE KNOT...

I GUESS I
WASN'T PAYING
ATTENTION TO
THE TIME!

EVEN DISTRACTED,
PHOENIX YOU BROUGHT THE
THREE OF US ACROSS
THE ATLANTIC...

...FROM
WESTCHESTER
TO NAUR ISLE...

...IN JUST
UNDER SEVEN
MINUTES!

OH!

I CAME TO NAUR ISLE
AT THE REQUEST OF
CHARLES XAVIER...

...HALF EXPECTING AN
ISLAND COMPLEX OF
MUTANT "LAB RATS."

WHAT I DISCOVERED
WAS EXACTLY...

YOU'VE JUST
TELEKINETICALLY
"POPPED THE
HOOD."

KATHERINE PRIDE,
SHADOWCAT.

X-SCOTT SUMMERS AND
JEAN GREY WED IN
X-MEN # 30 --SUDS

OH.

REALLY, KITTY?
IT SEEMED LIKE A
LOT LONGER.

GUESS I'M JUST SO
EXCITED ABOUT COMING--
YOU KNOW...

--HOME!
RED?

YEAH,
HOME!

HOME!

HOME!

HOME!

HOME!

WHAT
A GREAT
WORD!

THAT
MAKES ME
REAL!

WE COULDN'T
BE ANY HAPPIER,
RED.

KURT WAGNER,
NIGHTCRAWLER.

EXCUSE
ME,
RACHEL--

YOU'VE JUST
TELEKINETICALLY
"POPPED THE
HOOD."

KLIK

KATHERINE FRYE,
SHADOWCAT.

I'M PRETTY
SURE SHE KNOWS
THAT, ELF

AND OF COURSE,
RACHEL SUMMERS,
THE PHOENIX.

MY
PARENTS
GOT MARRIED
TODAY,
PEOPLE!

ACTUALLY, KATCHEN--

IT'D BE A
LITTLE
HAPPIER
INSIDE
HOVERCRAFT.



STOP TEASING,
FUZZY ELF!

FOR THE
FIRST TIME
SINCE I
CAME TO
THIS ERA...

...I FEEL LIKE I
BELONG HERE!

WITH SCOTT AND JEAN
MARRIED, IT MEANS I
MIGHT ACTUALLY BE
BORN IN THIS TIME
LINE!

I WON'T
PRETEND TO
UNDERSTAND
IT ALL...

SOMETHING
ABOUT
ALTERNATE
TIME LINES...

...AND "DAYS
OF FUTURE
PAST"?

THE BOTTOM LINE
BEING, SHE WAS A WOMAN
OUT OF TIME AND PLACE...

...WHO FOUND
HER TIME AND
PLACE.

...AND FRIENDS
AND FAMILY.



THAT BEING
THE CASE...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
RACHEL!

THANK
YOU, KITTY.



WHILE WE'RE WAITING
FOR THE CAKES AND
CANDLES TO ARRIVE...?

YES,
KURT?



...THERE'S THE LITTLE
MATTER OF A CERTAIN
ADVERSARY TO
WHICH YOU MIGHT
WANT TO ATTEND?!

IF NOT FOR
OUR CAKE...
THEN SURELY FOR
DR. CAMPBELL'S?

LIMMM

DID SHE JUST...
GIGGLE?

JA.

BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING
ABOUT
STANDING
BENEATH--

--SEVERAL
TONS--

GOOD POINT.

!GIGGLE!

HOW TO BEST SUM UP
MY DETACHED, PRO-
FESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC
OBSERVATION...

I WAS
SCARED.

--OF
FLAMING
STEEL--

--THAT
IS--

BE
RIGHT
BACK.

I'D READ DR.
MANTAGERT'S
FILES ON THE
WOMAN.

UNDERSTOOD--AS MUCH AS
ONE CAN, I SUPPOSE--THE
INCREDIBLE MANIPULATIVE POWER
AT HER COMMAND.

--"LESS THAN
COMFORTING."

THOUGH, IT
WOULD SEEM, WITH-
OUT JUST CAUSE.

PHOENIX MANAGED
TO STOP THE SHIP'S
DESCENT WITH I DON'T
KNOW... MILLIMETERS
TO SPARE.

AT LEAST.

FAR BE IT
FROM ME TO
CAST MYSELF IN
THE ROLE OF
CLASS CUR-
MEDGEON...

BUT IS THIS
THE TYPE OF
THING YOU
PEOPLE DO
FOR FUN?

SORT OF A
"TERRORIZE"
THE NEW
KID ON THE
BLOCK?

NOTHING SO
DEVIOUS,
RORY...

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
HERE TO STUDY
OUR ABILITY
TO CONTROL
OUR POWERS,
"DOCTOR"...

—SO WHY
ARE YOU
GETTING SO
WISSED
OUT OVER
A LITTLE
EXAMPLE?

BECAUSE
WHILE I DON'T
MIND YOUR PLAY-
FUL LITTLE GAMES,
IT IS EXACTLY
THIS FLAGRANT
DISREGARD FOR
HUMAN REAC-
TIONS...

...THAT IS THE
SOURCE OF
STRAINED
RELATIONS
BETWEEN HOMO
GAPIEN AND
HOMO SUPERIOR.

NORMAL PEOPLE
TEND TO
HATE AND
FEAR THAT
WHICH THEY DON'T
UNDERSTAND
AND CAN'T--

DOC, I'VE
BEEN FROM ONE
END OF THIS
UNIVERSE TO THE
OTHER...

...FROM THE
BEGINNING OF THE
TIME
STREAM TO
THE END...

...AND MUCH AS I
HATE TO BE THE
ONE TO BREAK
IT TO YOU--



S'FUNNY, HOW
LITTLE -- AND HOW
MUCH -- EVERYTHING
CAN CHANGE SO
SUDDENLY.

YESTERDAY,
I FELT WHAT
LITTLE LIFE I
DID HAVE WAS
FALLING APART.

SURE, I'D
FINALLY
CHANGED MY
FUTURE --

-- BUT I CAME BACK
WITH THE OTHERS TO
DISCOVER CAPTAIN
BRITAIN WAS AWASH
IN THE TIME STREAM.

I REALIZED I
WAS BRINGING
ONLY HOPE --
BUT I COULDN'T
BRING MYSELF
TO TAKE THE RISK
NECESSARY
TO SAVE HIM.

HIS ESSENCE
SOMEHOW
NEEDING TO,
TRYING TO,
"SWITCH" WITH
MINE --

--SENDING
MINE ...
WHERE?

TODAY
I DON'T HAVE
A CARE
IN THE --

WHA--Z!
THAT LIGHT IS...
BRILLIANT!

"EXCALIBUR
QT -- SUPE

ENOUGH,
RACHEL!

N-NO,
PLEASE...

...NOT
YOU...

...NOT
NOW...

YE-HOW.

look at me,
Rachel! ... look
how my body has
morphed in
preparation for
his return!

you can no
longer
ignore the
reality.

he is coming
back...and there
is nothing you
can do to prevent
it.

WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT,
MEGGAN?

WH-WHO
IS COMING
BACK?

Brian
braddock--
my light--
my life--

he has
been reaching
across the
years ...

struggling,
straining, for
a handhold in
this, HIS rightful
time and place.

you have
ignored his
calls for your
assistance.

until now.

he's out there.

somewhere... somewhere...

you...

...are his only hope.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KNOW THAT FOR SURE!

MAY, NOT FOR SURE... BUT MEGGAN HERE IS A META-MORPHIC ELEMENTAL...

-- AND WE KNOW HER BODY RESPONDS TO THE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS OF THOSE CLOSEST TO HER.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, DR. MACTAGGERT?

I'M SAYING THIS IS AN IDEALIZED VERSION OF HER... A VISION OF PURE AND PERFECT LOVE.

THIS IS MEGGAN AS VIEWED ACROSS THE AGES... BY BRIAN BRADDOCK!

IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT--WE HEARD THE COMMOTION!

I--I DON'T... KNOW HOW TO ANSWER THAT.

Why not start... with the truth?

ON TOP OF THE WORLD ONE MOMENT --

-- RESPONDENT THE NEXT.

YOU COULDN'T HELP FEEL AND FOR THE KID.



BUT BEFORE ANY STARTLING REVELATIONS WERE FORTHCOMING...

BING BING BING BING

...WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT??

== UNEXPECTED COMPANY! ==

THE INTRUDER ALERTS!

I DON'T SUPPOSE ANYONE'S BEEN WAITING FOR AN UNINVITED SURPRISE VISITOR?

"UNINVITED SURPRISE VISITOR...?"



ACTUALLY, JJA-- I'VE BEEN ANTICIPATING THE ARRIVAL OF JUST SUCH A PERSON.

COMM BOARD -- FRONT BOARD.

running.

KURT IS THAT YOU?



AUF WIEDERSEHEN FRAULEIN.

DANKS FOR COMING SO QUICKLY. I WOULD NOT HAVE CALLED AT ALL IF--

NONSENSE.

WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR?



NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO INVITE ME IN--

--OR DID I TRAVEL HALF-WAY AROUND THE GLOBE TO FREEZE ON YOUR FRONT STOOP?



PARDON MY MANNERS, MEIN FRIEND!

I'LL BE THERE IN JUST A--

DON'T MOVE, KURT.



A PINCH OF "PIKE PUST"...

...AND I'LL FIND MY OWN WAY IN! FOR AS YOU KNOW...

"VERY FEW
PLACES ARE
OFF-LIMITS TO
SOMEONE WITH
THE MEDICAL
ABILITIES OF
MY TRIPPER!

"DON'T
TRIPPER?"

"I THOUGHT
IT SOUNDED
MORE DRAMATIC
THAN **AMANDA
SEFTON**!"

"IT'S ONLY
A WORKING
NAME."

"DON'T
LOOK SO
SURPRISED,
ELE..."

"--YOU **ARE**
THE ONE WHO
CALLED.
NOT I."

"I LEFT A
MESSAGE ON
YOUR MACHINE
REARMS,
JA."

"BUT IT HAS
BEEN SO **VERY
LONG** SINCE
LAST WE SAW
EACH OTHER. I
WAS AFRAID..."

"WHAT? THAT
I WOULDN'T
MONITOR THE
VOW WE MADE
AS CHILDREN?"

"ANYFRIENDS!
ANY TIME!
ANY PLACE, ANY-
WHERE..."

"OH YEAH,
OF LITTLE
FAITH."

IT WAS THE TYPE
OF **ADVENTURE** THAT
TAKES PLACE BETWEEN
THE **SHORES** OF
HERNIA.

AND AS AT LEAST A
TEMPORARY RESIDENT
OF **NUBI ISLE**, AMANDA
SEFTON HAD A **LEGISLATIVE**
PERSONNEL FILE IF YOU
COULD BELIEVE IT.

SOFTYMOE SHE WAS
A FULL-TIME FLIGHT
ATTENDANT/PART-TIME
SORCERESS.

ALMOST, I COULDN'T
IMAGE THIS STUFF
UP IN I **TRIPPER**.

IF IT WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN **ADDED** IF
THE SITUATION DIDN'T
APPEAR SO **DRY** AT
THE **ADVENTURE**, I
WOULD HAVE **SORCERED**

RACHEL WASN'T TAKING THE WOMAN'S SKEWER REASSURANCE VERY WELL.

WHAT

IS SHE DOING HERE?!

THERE'S NOTHING ~~SHE~~ ~~ANYONE~~ CAN DO THAT I CAN'T!

NO ONE IS SAYING SHE CAN, RED.

I ONLY ~~ARRIVED~~ ~~WAS~~ HERE IN ORDER TO OFFER A PRESENT ~~WAS~~ ~~PRESENT~~ ON MEGGAN'S...

I DON'T NEED TO ~~STAY~~ ~~HERE~~ AND BE ~~ACCUSED~~ ~~OF~~ LIKE THIS?

YES?! NO ONE IS...

LET HER GO, KURT!

I SUSPECT MEGGAN ~~WAS~~ ~~HERE~~ ~~AND~~ ~~EVERY~~ ~~ALL~~ ~~THE~~ ~~QUESTIONS~~ ~~I~~ ~~HAVE~~ ~~ASKED~~ ~~THE~~ ~~WOMAN~~

KNOWING
WHAT I
KNOW NOW...

I CAN ONLY
IMAGINE WHAT
IT WAS SHE WAS
GOING THROUGH.

HELP ME...

RACHEL
PLEASE... HELP
ME...

BRIAN,
PLEASE...
WHEREVER
YOU ARE...

...WHEN-
EVER YOU
ARE... TRY
TO UNDER-
STAND...

...WHAT IT IS
YOU'RE ASKING
OF ME.

FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN MY
ENTIRE LIFE... I
HAVE A LIFE... A
PRESENT, A
FUTURE.

UNFAIR!

No!

YOU'RE
ASKING ME
TO GIVE
THAT UP...

...TO
EXCHANGE
MY PLACE IN
THIS ERA
WITH YOU.

TO LEAVE
WHAT I DO
KNOW... AGAIN
...AND VENTURE
INTO WHAT I
DON'T.

I'M SORRY,
BRIAN... I
CAN'T DO
THAT.

I'M
SORRY...
BUT I
WON'T.

WHO SAID
YOU HAD
A CHOICE,
RACHEL...?

?!

THERE IS
MUCH I
HAVE TO DO
HERE ...

...MUCH THAT
I HAVE LEARNED
WHICH NEEDS BE
APPLIED --

-- IF THIS
WORLD IS
TO SURVIVE.

ONE WAY
OR ANOTHER,
PHOENIX ... I
AM COMING
BACK !

NO--YOU
CAN'T DO
THIS ! THIS
IS MY
BODY !

FOR
NOW,
TRUE.

BUT YOU,
ABOVE ALL
OTHERS, SHOULD
KNOW --

--NOTHING LASTS
FOREVER !

GET

SLAM!

SLAM!

OUT

OF MY

BODY!

MY
HANDS
...
THEY
HURT.

HAVE I BEEN
SHUT OFF FROM
MY EMOTIONS
FOR SO LONG--

-- I'M EVEN HAPPY
TO EXPERIENCE
PAIN ...

...JUST
BECAUSE IT'S
MY PAIN?

IS THIS
WHAT I'VE
COME TO ?

RED?

HOW LONG
HAS THIS BEEN
GOING ON ?



KITTY -- YOU...
SAW **EVERY-**
THING?

MOST
OF IT.

THESE
PAST WEEKS...
BRIAN **LOST**
MEGAN IN A
CATATONIC
STATE--

--YOU
KNEW WHAT
WAS GOING
ON ...

...AND YOU
DIDN'T **SAY**
A **WORD?**

DIDN'T YOU **REALIZE**,
THAT, **WORKING TOGETHER**,
WE MIGHT HAVE FOUND A
WAY **OUT** OF THIS ?



I...

...I
COULDN'T
RISK IT.

I **DIDN'T**
WANT TO
RISK IT.

I'M ...
SORRY.



IN THE PAST
FEW WEEKS,
I MADE
FRIENDS
WITH **JEAN...**

...WITH MY
MOTHER.

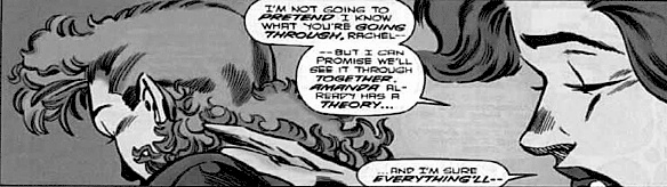
SHE LET
ME CALL
HER "**MOM**,"
KITTY.

I WOULDN'T
HAVE GIVEN
THAT UP ...
FOR **ANYTHING.**



YOU'RE
AFRAID THAT
REACHING OUT
TO BRIAN ...

...MEANS
LETTING GO
OF WHAT YOU
HAVE ?



I'M NOT GOING TO
PRETEND I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE GOING
THROUGH, RACHEL--

--BUT I CAN
PROMISE WE'LL
SEE IT THROUGH
TOGETHER.
AMANDA AL-
RENT HAS A
THEORY...

...AND I'M SURE
EVERYTHING'LL--



STOP IT...
PLEASE!

I DON'T WANT YOU
TO MAKE ME FEEL
BETTER ABOUT THIS,
KITTY...DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND?

SOMEONE NEEDS
ME -- AND I'M TOO
SELFISH TO HELP.



SORRY.
REP. NO
SHE.

YOU'RE DEALING WITH
SOMETHING
CALLED "SURVIVORS'
GUILT"--IT'S QUITE
COMMON AMONG
MY PEOPLE...

...SURVIVORS OF
THE HOLOCAUST YOU
FEEL BADLY ABOUT
LIVING WHILE BRIAN
IS TRAPPED.

THESE FEELINGS NO
DOUBT STARTED LONG
BEFORE CAPTAIN
BRITAIN LEFT.



OPEN UP--
OPEN YOUR
MIND. YOUR
MEMORIES
TO ME.

LET'S GO
BACK. TO-
GETHER...

BEFORE
YOU FOUNDED
EXCALIBUR.

YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE I TRUST ENOUGH
TO DO THIS...



BEFORE
YOU CAME TO
STAY WITH THE
X-MEN.

USE YOUR
POWERS --
BRING US
BACK...

"...TO THE
PENS OF THE
HELLHOUNDS!"

SO NOW
YOU KNOW...

...THIS IS THE
NIGHTMARE
THAT WAS MY LIFE--
THE SAME NIGHT
MORE I SEE EVERY
TIME I CLOSE
MY EYES.

THOUGH IT'S
BEEN YEARS
SINCE I WAS ONE
OF AHAH'S ELITE
SECT OF MUTANT
TRACKERS...

...A DAY
HASN'T PASSED
WHEN I DON'T RE-
MEMBER--IN VIVID
DETAIL--THE FILTH
AND COWARDS IN
WHICH WE WERE
KEPT.

BUT WORSE
THAN THE SUR-
ROUNDINGS, WAS
WHAT WAS HAPPEN-
ING INSIDE... IN
MY HEART AND
THE REMAINS OF
MY SOUL.

YOU SEE, IN
ORDER TO LIVE--
FOR ANY OF US
TO LIVE--WE HAD
TO CONTINUE
SERVING AHAH
AND HIS MASTERS.



THAT MEANT
TRACKING DOWN
OTHER MUTANTS--
IN SOME CASES,
FRIENDS AND
FAMILY-- WHO WE
KNEW WERE TAR-
GETED FOR
EXECUTION...

OR
WORSE,
THE
CAMPS.

EVERY NIGHT,
AS THE SCREAMS
OF THE DEAD AND
DYING ECHOED
IN MY EARS ...

... I REALIZED
I BOUGHT MY-
SELF ONE MORE
DAY OF LIFE, OF
FREEDOM...

...WITH
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
BLOOD.

AHAB HAD TOTAL
CONTROL OVER
YOU... YOU WEREN'T
RESPONSIBLE.

I KNOW
THAT. NOW.

BUT TRY
EXPLAINING
IT TO HER.

RACHEL--
THAT
SCREAM?!

ONE OF
OUR FELLOW
MUTANTS
WE TRACKED
DOWN TODAY.

WORSE
THAN THE
SOUND...

... WAS THE
LIGHT.

CONTROL
FREAK THAT
HE WAS, THIS
WAS AHHH'S
FINAL TWIST-
ING OF THE
KNIFE.

AN
EXAMPLE
OF HIS
SADISTIC
SENSE OF
HUMOR.

WHENEVER HE
...KILLED... ONE OF
THE "RESIDENTS"
OF THE CAMP...

...HE'D LEAVE
THE FRONT
DOOR WIDE
OPEN.

TAUNTING
US WITH OUR
FREEDOM.

DARING US
TO STEP OUT
OF THE PEN--
OUT OF THE
DARKNESS...

...AND INTO
THE LIGHT.

BUT YOU...
COULDN'T?

--I DIDN'T
DESERVE
FREEDOM.

I DIDN'T
DESERVE...
TO BE
HAPPY.

I REMEMBER
THIS NIGHT
BETTER THAN OTHERS.
BECAUSE IT WAS
THE NIGHT I
STOPPED.

STOPPED
CRYING.

STOPPED
HATING
MYSELF.

STOPPED
THINKING
ABOUT ANY-
THING OTHER
THAN EATING,
SLEEPING...AND
HUNTING.

IT WAS THE
NIGHT I STOPPED
FEELING ANY-
THING AT ALL.

AFTER EVERYTHING
I'D DONE, THE
CRIMES I'D COMMITTED
AGAINST THOSE I
LOVED --

WELL THEN,
I GUESS
YOU'RE LONG
OVERDUE...

...TO FIND
OUT WHAT'S
ON THE OTHER
SIDE.

WHAT AHAH DID TO
YOU WAS UNTHINKABLE
AND CRUEL, AND
PAINFUL...

...A PART OF
YOUR LIFE HE
TOOK AWAY
THAT CAN NEVER
BE RETURNED.

BUT IT
HAS TO
END.

HERE.
NOW.

WHERE
...ARE YOU
GOING?

"WE."

THE
QUESTION
IS "WHERE
ARE WE
GOING."

AND YOU
KNOW THE
ANSWER.

YOU CAN'T
ALLOW HIM--THE
MEMORY OF
HIM--TO CONTINUE
TO TAKE AWAY
THE REST OF YOUR
LIFE.

YOU CAN'T
LET HIM TAKE
AWAY YOUR
ABILITY TO
MAKE DIFFICULT
CHOICES.

YOU CAN'T LET
HIM TRAP YOU HERE
IN THIS ROOM FOR
THE REST OF YOUR
LIFE.

WHAT...

...WHAT
ABOUT
HER?

YOU-- AND
SHE-- DESERVE
THE RIGHT TO
SEE WHAT THERE
IS BEYOND THE
LIGHT.

IT'S TIME YOU
STOPPED
PUNISHING
YOURSELF AS
SEVERELY AS
AHAH ONCE
DID.

C'MON,
RED...

...LET'S
FIND WHAT
THERE IS
TO FIND
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE...

...TOGETHER.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT KITTY HAD
SAID TO RACHEL.

BUT SOME **AMBI**
AFTER SHE
STORMED OUT.

AND WHILE NOBODY
WAS **AMBI** ABOUT
BEING THERE--

THE WHOLE
LOT OF US
WERE ASSEMBLED
ON THE CLIFFS
OF MUR ISLE.

-- THERE WAS
SOMETHING ABOUT
RACHEL. SOMETHING
DIFFERENT.

ADDRESSED OF A
SENSE OF **GAUL**
OF **AMBI**NESS
UNLIKE ANYTHING
I'D EVER SEEN.

-- AND, AS AN **EXPERT**
ON CONTROL, IT WAS
OBVIOUS TO ME THAT SHE
SEEMED COMPLETELY IN
CONTROL OF HER OWN
DESTINY--

PROBABLY FOR
THE FIRST TIME
IN HER LIFE.

YOU UNDER-
STAND I'M
NOT OFFERING
ANY GUARAN-
TEES.

YOU'RE
TRYING,
AMANDA.

-- THAT'S ALL
I CAN ASK OF
ANYONE.

NEAR AS I CAN
DISCERN-- MY
MYSTIC ABILITIES
BEING FAIRLY
LIMITED...

...S THAT MEGGAN'S LOVE
FOR BRIAN, THEIR'S FOR
EACH OTHER, IS ACTING
AS A SORT OF TEMPORAL
ANCHOR FOR HIS JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

PULLING HIM
BACK-- IF IT IS
EVEN POSSIBLE--
MIGHT NOT BE
DOING HIM ANY
FAVORS.

HE'S BEEN
TRAPPED IN A
CHRONOLOGICAL
WAVE -- BUFFETED
ABOUT TO AND FRO
FROM THE DAWN
OF TIME ...

...UNTIL
THE END OF TIME,
TO THE POINT
WHERE HE MIGHT
VERY WELL BE
INSANE WHEN
HE RETURNS.

AS THIS
TIME-LINE'S
MOST POWERFUL
AND GLARING
TEMPORAL
ANOMALY...

...BRIAN IS
APPARENTLY
TRYING TO
SWITCH
PLACES WITH
PHOENIX.

THERE MAY
BE A WAY TO
RETRIEVE CAPTAIN
BRITAIN WITHOUT
SACRIFICING RACHEL.
BUT TO BE HONEST...
IT'S NOT LIKELY.

I APPRECIATE
YOUR EFFORTS
ON MY BEHALF,
AMANDA --

-- BUT
REGARDLESS
OF WHAT HAPPENS
TO ME, I'VE PUT
THIS OFF LONG
ENOUGH.

LET'S
GO GET
BRIAN.

HOW TO EXPLAIN
WHAT HAPPENED
NEXT?

IT'S CERTAINLY
NOT POSSIBLE TO
RATIONALIZE IT
AWAY USING SCIENCE--

FACTS, THEORIES,
EQUATIONS--

THE METHOD OF
CHOICE TO WHICH I'M
REGISTERING

PRETERNATURAL
IS PROBABLY THE
CLOSEST I CAN
COME

IT WAS AS IF
AMANDA REACHED OUT
WITH HER - LIFE
ESSENCE - AND
ENLARGED THE SPINE
RESPECT IN MEGGAN
AND PHOENIX.

AS SHE HAD SAID
EARLIER, RACHEL
WAS THE MEANS TO
RETURN THEIR LOST
TEAMMATE--

- WHEREAS
MEGGAN WAS THE
DESTINATION.

I ASSUME THAT
"WEAVING"
THE TWO WOMEN
TOGETHER--

EVEN IF IT WAS
JUST FOR A
MOMENT--

-- WAS THE MEANS BY
WHICH THIS BIZARRE TRIAD
WAS REACHING OUT ACROSS
THE MILLENNIA TO PUCK
CAPTAIN BRITAIN FROM
ETERNITY?

JUST AS IT LOOKED LIKE
I WAS GETTING AN
ACCURATE READING ON THE
EVENT--

...TIME ETERNITY
SEEMED TO SPLIT
IN TWO!

AMANDA...
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?
I CAN SEE
X-MEN...

...MUTANTS...
"REPRESENTED"
FROM DIFFERENT
TIMELINES-- PAST,
PRESENT AND
FUTURE!

THAT'S
BECAUSE THE
THREE OF US
HAVE DIVED HEAD
FIRST INTO
THE TIME STREAM,
RACHEL!

WHICH, ASIDE
FROM BEING A
MONUMENTALLY
STUPID-- THOUGH
NECESSARY--
THING TO DO...

...IS LIKE
TRYING TO
HOLD BACK
THE TIDES
WITH A TEA-
CUP!

IN SHORT,
WE HAVE A
MATTER OF
MOMENTS TO
FIND BRIAN
BRADDOCK--

--RE-
HIM BR
HOMIE

SE-
DA



HE
IS
HEARD
D
REAM.

WHICH, *ASIDE*
FROM BEING A
MENTALLY
AND -- THICKSH
CESSARY --
ING TO DO ...

...IS LIKE
TRYING TO
HOLD BACK
THE TIDE
WITH A TEA-
CUP!

IN SHORT,
WE HAVE A
MATTER OF
MOMENTS TO
FIND BRIAN
BRADPOCK--

--REEL
HIM BACK
HOME--

--AND
SEAL THIS
BACK UP!

IF WE DON'T--
IF WE CAN'T--
EVERY VARIABLE
TIMELINE IN ALL
OF INFINITY ...

...IS GOING
TO COME
FLOODING
INTO OUR
OWN!



RACHEL...?

YOU'VE
COME
FOR ME!

YES,
BRINN... I'M
HERE.



I'M RIGHT
WHERE I'M
SURPOSED
TO BE.

IT WAS AT
THE EXACT SAME
MOMENT THAT
SHE CAME TO
TERMS WITH
HER DESTINY...



THAT I
WAS UNNOTICED BY
EVERYONE IN THE
CONVICTION -

CAME FACE-TO-
FACE WITH
MY OWN!



THOUGH I
DIDN'T KNOW
HIS NAME -

- COULD SCARCELY
RECOGNIZE
THE FACE -

- I KNEW IN AN
INSTANT WHO I
WAS LOOKING AT.

I WAS STARING -
AT MYSELF!

I WAS STARING
INTO THE FUTURE



YOU...
DON'T
BELONG
HERE!

THIS IS MY
TIME...MY
PLACE...

...MY
HOME!

SHE WAS THE
PORTRAIT OF
CALM AS SHE
REALIZED--

--AMANDA
WAS WRONG.

I CAN'T
JUST
"PULL" YOU
THROUGH.



IT'S
EITHER
YOU...

...OR
ME.

HERE -- AT
LEAST, FOR
YOU -- YOU
HAVE YOUR
OWN TRUE
LOVE.



WHEREAS I
AM LEAVING
THIS TIME WITH
EVERYTHING I
CAME HERE
WITH...

...ME.



NEIN,
RACHEL!

KURT?

COME,
BRIAN.

COME
HOME.

I CAN'T
ACCEPT
THAT THERE
IS NO OTHER
WAY!

KURT, I CAN'T
HOLD 'THE TIME-
LINE TOGETHER
MUCH LONGER!

IT'S NOW OR
NEVER, OR FOR-
EVER AND ALWAYS
... YOUR CHOICE,
RACHEL.

I APPRECIATE
THE SENTIMENT,
FUZZY--

--BUT I'VE
MADE
MY CHOICE.

BUT...?

PLEASE,
KURT... NOT
ANOTHER
WORD.

PLEASE?

KITTY
PROMISE
ME YOU'LL SAY
"HELLO."

I-I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

WHEN I'M
BORN, TO
SCOTT AND
JEAN.

PROMISE
ME YOU'LL
HOLD ME IN
YOUR
ARMS...

...KEEP
ME SAFE
AND WARM...

...AND
GIVE ME
A KISS
"HELLO!"

I...
PROMISE.

THANK YOU.

AT THAT MOMENT...

THE LAWS OF
QUANTUM
PHYSICS
KICKED IN.

EVERYTHING THAT
WAS GREGG
SUMMERS...

...WAS REPLACED BY
EVERYTHING THAT WAS
BRIAN BLOODSTOCK.

HE RETURNED
TO THE HERE
AND NOW.

SHE WAS PURLED
TO THE FARTHEST
REACHES OF TIME...

FOREVER!

AND WHILE I
REALIZE THIS
WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE THE UN-
USUAL WAY OF
"CONNECTING"
ITSELF.

I COULDN'T HELP
THINKING...

HOW MUCH
EASIER,
HOW MUCH
SIMPLER...

THIS CORNER
OF THE
UNIVERSE
WOULD BE...

... WITHOUT HER

BUT, IN MEETING WITH
THE **TRUCK DRIVER**
RIDE THAT HAS BEEN
MY **EXPERIENCE** SINCE
I FIRST **ARRIVED**...

...THE **JOURNALS** AND
RECORDS...
WHATEVER THEY
MIGHT BE...

...WOULD HAVE
TO **WAIT**...

AS IT WAS, THEY
WENT FROM **ONE**
CRISIS...

...TO THE **NEXT**!

AMANDA?!

M'OKAY...

...JUST
TIRED, NOT
HALF THE
MYSTIC...

--MOM
WAS--

SORRY
I LOST
RACHE...

RACHEL
MADE HER **OWN**
DECISION.

SHE SACRIFICED **HER**
LIFE... FOR THAT OF
ANOTHER... SOME-
THING, I'M SURE
ANY ONE OF US
WOULD HAVE DONE.

GOD BLESS
AND PROTECT
HER SOUL.

B-BUT... DID
SHE **SAVE**
BRIAN--

--OR SOME-
ONE ELSE
COMPLETELY?

BRIAN...
MY LOVE...

...IS
THAT...
YOU?

I FEAR NOT,
GENTLE ONE!

TWOULD
SEEM OBVIOUS,
I AM NEITHER
OF SOUND
MIND--

--NOR
CERTAINLY,
SOUND
BODY--

--TO ANSWER
TO THE NAME
"BRIAN."

HENCEFORTH
YOU MAY ADDRESS
ME BY THE
EPITHET I AC-
QUIRED UPON MY
TRIP THROUGH
ETERNITY.

FROM THIS
MOMENT ON...

...CALL ME

BRITANNIC!

I DISCOVERED
SOMETHING THAT
IS ~~NECESSARY~~
COMMON KNOW-
LEDGE TO EVERY-
ONE WHO DEALS
WITH MUTANTS
IN GENERAL...

...AND ~~ALL~~ MUTANTS
IN PARTICULAR.

...THAT SOMETIMES--
MORE OFTEN THAN
NOT--THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS...

...THE END!